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Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005

Conference and support services extended to the Counter-Terrorism Committee in the implementation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001)

Eighteenth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/58/23) containing revised estimates under sections 2 and 29D of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005. During its consideration of the report, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information.

2. The Counter-Terrorism Committee was established by the Security Council in its resolution 1373 (2001) of 28 September 2001 on measures to prevent terrorism. Since then, the Council has extended the mandate of the Committee and endorsed its programme of work every six months. The latest extension is contained in a presidential statement dated 16 October 2003 (S/PRST/2003/17).

3. As indicated in the report of the Secretary-General, in the absence of specifically budgeted resources for the biennium 2002-2003, conference and support services requirements for the Counter-Terrorism Committee were met from within the overall appropriation approved by the General Assembly under sections 2, General Assembly affairs and conference services, and 27D, Office of Central Support Services, of the programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003. Actual requirements were reported to the Assembly in the context of the first and second budget performance reports for the biennium 2002-2003 (see A/C.5/58/23, para. 3).

4. The Advisory Committee notes that, while the meetings of the Counter-Terrorism Committee have been included in the calendar of conferences for 2004, the related financial provisions for conference and common support services were not included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 given the extraordinary nature of the Counter-Terrorism Committee's activities mandated by the Security Council (see A/C.5/58/23, para. 4). Substantive servicing of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, however, is included in the proposed programme budget under section 3, Political affairs. The estimates contained in the report of the Secretary-General cover 2004 only, given the difficulty of predicting the pattern of

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work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (see A/C.5/58/23, para. 5), with supplementary proposals to be submitted to the Assembly at its fifty-ninth session in the context of the first performance report.

5. **The Advisory Committee finds the treatment of the financing of the activities of the Counter-Terrorism Committee inconsistent, and requests that it be regularized**. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that it was expected that the mandate of the Counter-Terrorism Committee would be extended through 2005. In that connection, the Advisory Committee reiterates its view, as stated in its report of 27 November 2002, concerning estimates in respect of matters of which the Security Council is seized, that the estimate for open-ended entities, such as monitoring mechanisms, expert groups or the Counter-Terrorism Committee, should be presented in the proposed programme budget (see A/57/7/Add.17, para. 5).

6. The Advisory Committee was informed that efforts had been undertaken to promote streamlined reporting by Member States, in accordance with the recommendation of the Advisory Committee in its report of 20 May 2002 (see A/56/7/Add.11). In that connection, the Advisory Committee notes that the estimated number of pages to be translated for 2004 (2,470 pages), as shown in annex I of the report of the Secretary-General, would indicate a trend towards shorter reports when compared with the actual pages translated in the biennium 2002-2003 (7,555 pages), as shown in the second performance report (see A/58/558, para. 19). **The Advisory Committee welcomes this development.**

7. The estimates contained in the report of the Secretary-General are based on the assumption that the Counter-Terrorism Committee would have more or less the same level of activities in 2004-2005 as in 2002-2003. It is expected that meeting servicing costs for 2004, estimated at $650,000, could be met from within resources already programmed for section 2 of the proposed programme budget. Translation of an estimated 2,740 pages and preparation of summary records would require recruitment of short-term staff — 18 translator/reviser full-time positions and 13 temporary positions for text-processors — for a total estimated additional requirement for 2004 of $3,958,900 under section 2 of the proposed programme budget. Requirements for section 29D are estimated at $234,100.

8. **Taking into account its comments and observations as set out in the paragraphs above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments of $4,193,000 in connection with the conference-servicing and common support requirements of the Counter-Terrorism Committee in 2004. Such additional appropriations as may be necessary can be dealt with in the context of the first performance report for the biennium 2004-2005, which should include detailed information on expenditures relating to the provision of conference and common support services to the Counter-Terrorism Committee in 2004.** The Advisory Committee notes the statement, in paragraph 13 of the report of the Secretary-General, that the activities related to the servicing of the Counter-Terrorism Committee are of an extraordinary nature and should be dealt with as provided for in annex I, paragraph 11, of General Assembly resolution 41/213.